

Agilent Ref: 10020208-1  
United States Application Serial No. 10/087,447

**If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.**

In the present case, the claims of Group I include the elements found in the claims of Groups II and III. As such, the search for the claims of Group I will find any relevant prior art relating to the claims of Groups II and III.

Accordingly, little, if any, additional searching should be required for the claims of Groups II and III, and therefore the examination of the claims of Groups II and III together with the claims of elected Group I should impose little, if any, additional burden on the Examiner.

As such, examining the claims of Groups II and III and the claims of elected Group I together in the present application clearly does not impose an undue or serious burden on the Examiner. In the absence of such an undue or serious burden, the Examiner is clearly instructed by the MPEP to examine the entire application. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to rejoin the claims of Groups II and III with the claims of elected Group I and to examine all the claims together in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 4. 6. 05

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